(c) what is the effect of WTO's policy of removing quantitative restriction on our export and on our industry as a whole; and

(d) whether opening up of import of textile goods from other countries has created difficulty for our industry, and if so, what is extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) As per the latest available DGCIS export data, the textile exports during the period April-July, 2002 have amounted to US$ 3,846.0 million, marketing a growth of nearly 6.7% over the exports during the same period of 2001.

(b) The value of textile exports from the country the last three years are given below:—

Year	Value (in US$ Million)
1999-2000	10508.6
2000-2001	12037.6
2001-2002	10715.0

Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta.

(c) and (d) The liberalised trading regime would result in increased international trade in textiles thus providing greater export opportunities; and at the same time expose the domestic industry to imports of textiles have shown an increase. However, the total imports are not even one percent of the annual domestic production of textiles in the country. The imports, thus, are not having any significant adverse impact on the domestic industry.

Modify the Jute Manufacturing Packaging Order

1645. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government has modified the manufacturing jute packaging order;

(b) if so, the comparative details arising out of the original order as well as the modification;

(c) whether any study has been made on its impact on jute industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, lthe reasons therefore; and

(e) the steps contemplated to retain the viability of the jute industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the Order issued *vide* S.O. No. 853 (E) dated 01.09.2001, the Government had prescribed mandatory packaging in jute bags under the Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use in Packaging Commodities) Act, 1987 to the extent of 100% each for commodities foodgrains and sugar for the jute year 2001-02 from 01.09.2001 to 30.06.2002. However, *due to the disruption in supply of jute bags on account of workers' strike* in jute mills, the Government had to provide a relaxation of 10% in mandatory packaging in respect of sugar only *w.e.f.* 01.03.2002 to 30.06.2002 *vide* S.O. No. 270(E) dated 01.03.2002. Further, based on the recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) and CCEA, the Government issued an order *vide* S.O. No. 736(E) dated 12.07.2002, prescribing the percentage of mandatory packaging in jute bags as 80% and 75% for the commodities foodgrains and sugar respectively for the period from 12.07.2002 to 30.06.2003 and further 60% and 50% for the commodities foodgrains and sugar respectively *w.e.f.* 01.07.2003 to 30.06.2004.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The decrease in production of jute goods during 2002-03 (July-Oct.) has been 5% over the corresponding period of previous year, which is normal variation as per the trend. Hence, the necessity to assign any study in this regard was not felt.

(e) In order to ensure the viability of the jute sector, including the jute industry and jute farmers the Government is considering to launch a Jute Technology Mission (JTM) with the following objectives:

(i) to reduce crop duration, improve fibre quality, reduce cost of jute cultivation;

(ii) to increase productivity and quality of jute fibre;

(iii) to create strong market linkages for raw jute and to assist jute growers to get better price for their crops;

(iv) to increase productivity in organized jute sector, develop new diversified jute products and increase their market share.

The Government also provides financial assistance to jute industry under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS). For providing incentives for exporters, the External Market Assistance (EMA) Scheme has been extended for a period of one year *w.e.f.* 01.04.2002. The Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) Scheme has also been extended to the jute sector.

Restrictions on export of textiles/clothing apparel

1646. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether exports of textiles, clothing apparel was subjected to certain restrictions during the year 2002;

(b) if so, the details of textiles, clothing apparel exports for the last three years, as on today, year-wise and country-wise;

(c) whether India filed a case against US against its modified rules of origin for textiles and clothing apparel articles;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to revive the textile industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) Exports of textiles and clothing (including; knitwear), which are subject to quantitative restraints in certain developed countries *i.e.* USA, Member States of European Union and Canada, are regulated by means of; the Export Entitlement Distribution Policies (for garments and textiles respectively formulated by the Government from time to time under the provisions of EXIM Policy. The current Garments and Knitwears Export Entitlement Policy 2000-04 and Yarn, Fabrics and Made-ups Export Entitlement Policy 2000-04 were annoucned on November 12, 1999.

(b) The value of textile exports from the country during the last three years and the current year *i.e.* upto July, 2002 are given below:—